

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet deposition system for depositing sheets on at least one of a plurality of supports which comprises:

deposition means for selectively depositing sheets in  $N$  sheet deposition locations,  $N$  being an integer number  $\geq 1$ ;

$N+1$  guide members for guiding the supports, each of said guide members being provided with a plurality of points of suspension for detachably suspending the supports thereon, said guide members being vertically arranged such that each of said sheet deposition locations has an associated lower guide member positioned essentially below the sheet deposition location and an associated higher guide member positioned essentially above the sheet deposition location;

multiple supports, each of said supports being detachably suspended on one of said plurality of points of suspension of said guide members and arranged one above the other; and

drive means for driving said guide members so as to place one of said supports in a sheet deposition location or to alter the distance between supports.

2. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 1, wherein the guide members are endless.

3. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 1, wherein the number of supports is at least  $N+2$ .

4. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 1, wherein  $N \geq 2$ .

5. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said guide members is composed of one or more belts, or one or more chains, or one or more wires.

6. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 5, wherein the associated lower guide member and the associated higher guide member is partially overlapping.

7. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said  $N+1$  guide members has an associated clutch for transmitting drive thereto, said system further comprising control means for selectively activating at least one of said clutches.

8. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 7, wherein said clutches are tooth clutches.

9. A sheet deposition system for depositing sheets on at least one of a plurality of supports which comprises:

deposition means for selectively depositing sheets in at least one sheet deposition location;

a first endless guide member positioned essentially above said sheet

deposition location and a second endless guide member positioned essentially below said sheet deposition location, said first endless guide member and said second endless guide member partially overlapping each other, said first endless guide member being provided with a first plurality of points of suspension which are spaced equidistant at a first pitch, P1, for detachably suspending supports thereon, said second endless guide member being provided with a second plurality of points of suspension which are spaced equidistant at a second pitch, P2, for detachably suspending supports thereon;

at least two supports, each of said supports being detachably suspended on one of said plurality of points of suspension of said endless guide members and arranged one above another; and

drive means for driving the first and second endless guide member such that a support suspended on a point of suspension of said first guide member passes to a point of suspension of said second guide member or vice versa.

10. The sheet deposition system as recited in claim 9, wherein each of said first and second guide member has an associated tooth clutch for transmitting drive thereto.